

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OIC-04 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-14

RSC-01 SCI-06 AEC-11 SPM-01 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08

TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 FEA-02 OMB-01

SWF-02 DRC-01 /267 W
----- 123890

R 221150Z MAY 74

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5934

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UN, UNCTAD

SUBJ: STEAMROLLER TACTICS IN UN

REF: STATE 104050

1. THIS MISSION AND USDELS TO UNCTAD MEETINGS HAVE BEEN TRYING FOR SEVERAL YEARS TO COPE WITH TENDENCY OF LDCE IN UNCTAD SIMILAR TO THOSE WHICH SURFACED SO STRONGLY AT RECENT SPECIAL SESSION UNGA TO USE BLOC VOTING STRENGTH TO PUSH THROUGH RESOLUTIONS, FREQUENTLY WITHOUT ADEQUATE CONSIDERATION OF PRACTICAL PROBLEMS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND SOMETIMES WITHOUT SERIOUS EFFORT TO NEGOTIATE. THERE HAS BEEN SOME EBB AND FLOW IN POPULARITY OF STEAMROLLER PSYCHOLOGY DEPENDING ON PARTICULAR ISSUES AND CIRCUMSTANCES AND WHO WAS INVOLVED, WITH SOME TENDENCY FOR LATIN AMERICANS TO LEAD THE STEAMROLLER. WE THOUGHT THIS TENDENCY HAD PERHAPS DECLINED SOMEWHAT RECENTLY, BUT WE EXPECT OPPOSITE TREND IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE ON BASIS OF NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER AND OTHER SPECIAL
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SESSION GOSPEL.

2. WE HAVE IN PAST TRIED TO COMBAT THIS TENDENCY WITH CONTINUED PATIENT EFFORTS TO PERSUADE LDC REPS THAT RESOLUTIONS PASSED OVER OPPOSITION OF THOSE WHO ARE CALLED UPON TO IMPLEMENT THEM DO NOT PRODUCE RESULTS AND BY FIRM REFUSAL TO ACCEPT EARLIER RESOLUTIONS AND THE LIKE TO WHICH WE DID NOT AGREE AS GOVERNING. ON AT LEAST ONE OCCASION WE DECLINED TO ATTEND MEETING WHICH HAD BEEN STEAMROLLED OVER OUR OPPOSITION (PHOSPHATES CONSULTATION 1972), WITH SALUTARY RESULTS, WE BELIEVE, IN REDUCING STEAMROLLER TENDENCY FOR A TIME. REFUSAL OF SOME WESTERN COUNTRIES FOR A TIME TO PARTICIPATE IN UNCTAD GROUP ON TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY ALSO HAD SOME BENEFICIAL EFFECT, IN OUR VIEW, IN BRINGING LDCS IN GROUP DOWN TO EARTH.

3. U.S. EFFORTS OF ARE MOST EFFECTIVE WHEN THERE IS SOLID OR NEARLY SOLID DEVELOPED COUNTRY FRONT. THIS FREQUENTLY HAS BEEN DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN HOWEVER IN VIEW OF (A) TREND IN MANY OTHER DEVELOPED MARKET ECONOMY COUNTRIES TOWARD BEING MORE FORTHCOMING THAN U.S. ON ISSUES, E. G. GSP, SDR LINK, ASSISTANCE LEVELS, (B) GREATER WILLINGNESS OF SOME TO ACCEPT WORDS AND SHOLE RESOLUTIONS OF AMBIGUOUS MEANING WITHOUT ANY INTENT OF REALLY PERFORMING, AND (C) GREATER ATTENTION BY SOME TO APPEARANCES OF COOPERATION WITH LDC AIMS.

4. WHILE WE HAVE NO PARTICULAR SUGGESTIONS AS TO DEALING WITH PROBLEM IN NEW YORK, WE THINK IT WILL BE IMPORTANT IN MINIMIZING EFFECTS OF WAVES FROM SPECIAL SESSION IN SUCH PLACES AS UNCTAD TO TAKE VERY FIRM POSITION AGAINST ACCEPTANCE OF DECLARATION OR ACTION PROGRAM AS BASIS FOR APPROVAL OF ANY OF CONTENT WHICH WE HAVE OPPOSED ELSEWHERE AND WHICH IS NOT FULLY ACCEPTABLE TO US. WE ARE IN BETTER POSITION THAN MOST TO DO SO BECAUSE OF NATURE OF U.S. RESERVATION IN NEW YORK. WHILE WE SHOULD SEEK MAXIMUM SUPPORT FROM OTHER DELEGATIONS IN SO DOING, WE SHOULD NOT BE OVERLY DISTURBED IF WE HAVE TO STAND OUT CONSPICUOUSLY AGAINST PRODUCTS OF STEAMROLLER.

ABRAMS

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Message Attributes

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